

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to para 3(2) of the statement on measures for strengthening of administration laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on the 10th August, 1961, "Ministries should only concern themselves with matters of policy, general supervision and enforcement of standards. Executive agencies should consequently be made stronger and given greater responsibility."

The Department of Food is concerned with acquisition, storage, preservation, movement and distribution of vast quantities of foodgrains and the mixed composition of the Headquarters organisation of this Department reflects the essentially executive, coupled with policy-making, nature of its functions. This Department have both Secretariat and executive posts to each of which are entrusted an appropriate part of its Secretariat and non-secretariat responsibilities. According to para 3(1) of the same statement laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 10-8-1961.

"Ministries need not conform to a standard pattern of organisation. They will be free to vary it within broad limits, to introduce speed and quality of work suited to their circumstances."

The present set-up of this Department has been evolved to suit the requirements of speed and quality of work after much experimentation with various patterns of organisation and has proved most effective. No changes in the organisation are for the present contemplated though the scope for further reorganisation to promote efficiency and speed of disposal is constantly under review. The field organisations are, however, being strengthened by delegating to them enhanced powers in administrative matters generally and in operational matters particularly, and, as far as possible, only matters involving policy-making, direction and control are being looked after by the Department.

Starvation Deaths

1505. { Dr. P. Srinivasan:
Shri Paramasivan:
Shri Mohsin:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether any cases of starvation deaths have been reported so far in any part of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri D. R. Chavan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Frog-Legs

1506. **Shrimati Ramdulari Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether government are aware of the fact that frog-legs are in great demand and fetch good prices in some of the foreign markets and that there is great scope for exporting frog-legs from India;

(b) whether it is a fact that frogs of suitable species which are required for this trade are found in abundance in North Bihar;

(c) if so, whether Government have under consideration any scheme to extend necessary financial and technical assistance to private entrepreneurs in North Bihar who may like to deal in this trade; and

(d) if so, the extent of such assistance to be given?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) The exportable varieties of frogs are known to occur in northern Indian States including Bihar, but the quantity available is not known, as no survey has been made. A post of Frog Development Officer has been sanctioned recently to carry out such a survey.